

Many developing countries have been ruled by dictators and corrupt officials who have stolen millions of dollars from their people, laundering these stolen assets in banks and financial institutions in the developed world. Numerous dictators, such as Sani Abacha of Nigeria, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier of Haiti, Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, Suharto of Indonesia and the Taliban of Afghanistan, have plundered their countries' resources and left their people deeply impoverished and oppressed. When these corrupt officials leave their countries, the new governments typically lack the resources to thoroughly investigate the theft and identify the laundered assets.

The Stolen Asset Recovery Act of 2002 would require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit annual reports to the Congress on the laundering of stolen assets in American financial institutions. The reports would include an explanation of U.S. Government efforts to identify stolen assets, mechanisms available to the U.S. Government to identify stolen assets and legislation that could be enacted to facilitate the return of stolen assets to the people of the countries from which the assets were stolen. The legislation would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to urge international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to provide to the United States copies of all audits regarding the use of funds loaned to governments where corruption has been a serious problem.

The United States should support efforts to identify assets stolen by corrupt foreign officials and facilitate their return to the people who rightfully own them. I urge my colleagues to support The Stolen Asset Recovery Act of 2002.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the State of Israel. I am wholly committed to the security and safety of Israel, a key strategic friend and ally. Last week I voted present on H. Res. 392, the DeLay Resolution entitled "Expressing Solidarity With Israel In Its Fight Against Terrorism." In December 2001, I voted for a similar resolution, H. Con. Res. 280, also entitled "Expressing Solidarity With Israel In Its Fight Against Terrorism."

I voted "present" last week because I believed that this resolution did not promote the safety or security of Israel. I hope to see Israel and Palestine coexist as democratic states, each within secure and internationally recognized boundaries. I believe that the United States has an important role to play in promoting peace in the region. The language of this resolution was highly inflammatory, and I could not in conscience support a measure that might compromise our ability to seek peace.

Terrible carnage has claimed too many innocent lives, both Israeli and Palestinian. I voted as I did because I believe the United States can help end that carnage.

RECOGNIZING MAY 10TH ANNUAL PEACE OFFICER DAY IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my colleagues of the countless sacrifices made by many police officers who serve us every day. In particular, we owe a special debt of gratitude to the many courageous men and women who have given their lives while protecting and defending others. In Congress, we enjoy the protection provided by members of the Capitol Police force, just as in our states, cities and localities we are privileged to be protected by some of the finest and bravest men and women. Unfortunately, far too many of their colleagues have lost their lives in the line of duty.

In the city of Chicago, these brave men and women will be remembered tomorrow, May 10, 2002 as part of the Cook County Peace Officer Day of Remembrance and Recognition. Last year, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution establishing May 10th of every year, beginning this year, as this special day of remembrance. Tomorrow, the Cook County Peace Office Memorial Foundation will hold a special public ceremony to honor all current police officers for the difficult work that they do every day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Cook County Peace Officer Memorial Foundation and their Co-Chairmen Jason H. Watson, Edward Sajdak, Nathan Camer, Daryl Bernard for organizing this special event. I also join them in saluting the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while making America's communities safe and secure for all of us.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all correctional officers and to honor the Week of May 5th as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Correctional officers play an imperative role in my Congressional District and throughout the country.

FBI Schuylkill, SCI Frackville, and SCI Mahanoy, as well as three county prisons, are six of the most critical employers in my district. The men and women who work at these facilities have the awesome responsibility of protecting my constituents and the public from inmates.

Correctional employees also have the important job of overseeing the rehabilitation of prisoners. They lead prisoners back into the community, supervising the construction of such things like recreation areas and baseball fields for children.

As the former sheriff of Schuylkill County, I worked hand-in-hand with the men and women who worked at the correctional facilities. No group of people understands the rigors and challenges of law enforcement greater than those who work in correctional facilities.

I would also like to pay tribute to the New York Corrections Department. On September 11, these men and women rushed to the scene of the World Trade Center tragedy to help evacuate the victims, once again proving the vital role correctional officers play in their communities.

Every day correctional officers go to work they face more danger than some of us face in our whole lives. It is a great honor to recognize these men and women and to recognize the Week of May 5th as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

HONORING THE 150TH CELEBRATION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th Celebration of the Sisters of Mercy mission in the state of Connecticut. Since their founding in Hartford in 1852, the Sisters have established many important organizations, including St. Mary Home for the Aged, 1880; the Ministry for the Deaf-American School for the Deaf, 1896; Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, 1905; Saint Joseph College, 1932; Mercy High School, 1963; Our Lady of Mercy School, 1964; Foreign Mission in Guatemala, 1981; Mercy Center at Madison, 1973; Mercy Housing & Shelter, 1983; Trust House Collaborative Learning Center, 1996; and the Collaborative Center for Justice, 1999.

The Sisters have turned their original stated purpose of the care of orphans and other works of Mercy into selfless acts that have improved the lives of millions of individuals.

Their work in education alone has influenced countless numbers of students who have in turn contributed to the development of both the Church community and the Connecticut community as a whole. The Sisters of Mercy have consciously identified the most pressing needs of the community and effectively used their resources to address those needs. Whether it be helping the economically poor, sick, elderly, imprisoned or ignorant, showing a special concern for women and children, or carrying out foreign missionary work, the actions of the Sisters can be described as nothing less than altruistic. They have supplemented time-honored strategies with conventional methods to address human needs in health care and pastoral and social services. The Sisters have generously provided for the spiritual welfare of thousands.

In July 1991, 7,000 Sisters of Mercy united as the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas to become an international community. The Institute includes 25 regional communities with 5,500 members who serve in North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Guam and the Philippines. The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas sponsor or cosponsor seven major national healthcare systems, 20 colleges and universities, 20 elementary and preschools, 39 secondary schools, and hundreds of affordable housing developments. They also serve in programs ranging from hospices for persons with HIV/AIDS, to adult literacy centers and resettlement programs for refugees.